

# ANointed

NEWS JOURNAL

The Nation's Premier **WEEKLY** Faith-Based and Professional Publication For Winners  
Volume 24 Issue 12 March 25 - 31, 2018 **FREE SEE INSIDE**

**THE FAITH & POLITICS INSTITUTE**  
**2018 Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage**  
**MEMPHIS, TN AND BIRMINGHAM, MONTGOMERY & SELMA, AL**



**CONGRESSMAN DONALD NORCROSS, CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS & REV. CHRIS COLLINS**  
OUTSIDE OF MASON TEMPLE WHERE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. GAVE HIS LAST SERMON "I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAINTOP"



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## A Word from the Editor

### Celebrating 24 years of providing quality news to our readers

In May of 1994 the CEO/Editor in Chief, Chris Collins received a vision from the Creator to write a business plan to seek funding for a community newspaper. For a period of eight months, the Holy Spirit dealt with Collins and reorganized the business plan for the ministry of the Anointed News Journal. The Holy Scripture that was given to the editor was Habakkuk 2:2 (Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.) As a result, Collins began to pray and seek the Creator for direction. Knowing that English was not his favorite subject while attending school, and that his goal in life certainly was not to be a journalist, Collins completely trusted the Creator while developing his business.

The name "Anointed" comes from the hands that God has anointed to do this work. Collins left a career in law enforcement to pursue the vision that the Creator had given. With his very hands and for the first seven years or so, Collins would cut and paste his materials after typing, proofing and making sure all copy was camera ready. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Collins learned to master the newspaper business and throughout the past decade, the Anointed News Journal has served as a leading publication in the industry.

The Anointed News Journal has provided stories and services to 28 states across the country and has provided distribution at times to New Zealand, Germany, England, Ghana, West Africa Malawi, South Africa, Bloemfontein Free State South Africa, Jamaica, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Okinawa and Canada. Although Collins himself had not been to many of these places, through God's grace the Anointed News Journal has. "It's amazing that as people read the Anointed News Journal, they share it with family and friends everywhere. Correspondence from many places continues to come in requesting copies to be distributed there," said Collins.

The CEO/Editor-in-Chief, Chris Collins classifies the Anointed News Journal as the nation's premier weekly faith-based and professional networking publication. "In my opinion, a daily newspaper is only as good as the community it serves. If you live in San Francisco, you are not interested in receiving a local newspaper from Philadelphia or New Jersey. However, the stories that we write about in the Anointed News Journal are those that are life changing and will empower its reader regardless of where they live. In addition, people from California have picked up our publication and developed relationships with people on the East Coast and so on. There is power in this publication and the name represents more than just a title," said Collins.

Many grass-roots newspapers have a tough time surviving especially during these tough economic times. Mainstream media companies across the country have closed its doors, downsized and/or some have formed company mergers. Many faith-based publications have come and gone. The Anointed News Journal is moving into its 24th year in

January 2018. We look to celebrate with our readers. When asking the CEO, Chris Collins, what's next for "Anointed", he shared his outlook for the future.

"As we move into 2018, we look to expand our brand into new territories. Our distribution has reached a greater market. Our mission is to serve the community at large by empowering our readers with quality information and resources. Anointed News Journal is FREE to the public. I acknowledge and personally thank those individuals that have advertised and contributed to our mission. I'm asking each and every reader to please make a financial contribution to support our efforts. Please do not assume that the Anointed News Journal is able to continue doing great work without the support of our readers. The Holy Scriptures reminds me that I have not because I ask not (James 4:2 KJV). Today I'm asking you to make a monthly/yearly pledge to the Anointed News Journal, PO Box 309, Camden, NJ 08101. We have launched a continuous fundraising campaign in 2017 that will continue in 2018. I do greatly appreciate all of your kind words of encouragement throughout the years on the good job we are doing with the Anointed News Journal, however I'm personally asking that if you've been reading this publication for 23 years and have never made a contribution, now is a great time to do so," said Collins.

It is suggested that individuals and organizations subscribe to receive the "Anointed News Journal" at home or work. Churches and nonprofits that would like to receive copies on location can call 856-904-9429 to make arrangements. We simply ask for a monthly donation.

If you are in business and need exposure, advertising in Anointed starts as low as \$30 per week and rates vary according to sizes up to a full page. Editorial space can also be purchased for those who are aspiring writers or columnist.

Call 856-904-9429 and get your business card listed for \$30. Don't have a business card? We can create one for you. Get listed in front of thousands of readers for the cost of a trip to McDonalds. It might just pay off big for you. Business cards will be printed in full color. Those interested in having their business card printed in the "Anointed News Journal" can mail (2) two copies of your business card along with a check or money order to "Anointed News Journal", PO Box 309, Camden, NJ 08101. Credit Cards are welcomed by calling 856-904-9429 or by visiting [www.anointedonline.net](http://www.anointedonline.net) and clicking on donations. For more information and advertising contact the editor at 856-904-9429, via email at [anjeditor@verizon.net](mailto:anjeditor@verizon.net) or contact the COO of New Business Development, Stephanie Moore at 856-723-7823.

By Stephanie Moore

## Have You Given Your Contribution To Anointed News Journal?

Since 1995 ANJ has been at the forefront of providing quality information that uplifts and empowers our readers. We are proud to continue in that tradition. We pride ourselves on building quality relationships on all levels and certainly take this time to thank our advertisers and partners. From the one timer to the long term corporate advertisers, we value each and every one of you. From the high school student to the retiree, we value our readers. To those of you who participate in our annual fundraising, "Christmas with Chris" Black Tie Gala, thank you for your support and for helping to make this year celebration the largest yet. To our social media community, thank you and please continue to share our newspaper with your network of friends.

As we move forward in to a new year, Anointed News Journal is excited to expand our operations by increasing our distribution, sales team, and advertisers.

If you are in business and need to advertise, we reach the audience you are looking for and our advertising rates are cost effective. You are sure to get the biggest bang for your buck by advertising with ANJ. In fact, our rates have not changed in 23 years. I can personally guarantee that no other media outlet will provide you with the quality of service that ANJ has to offer you. We are in the business of building long lasting quality business relationships and work hard to do so.

This is the year of giving to others. We are thankful that God has allowed us as a company to have been able to help so many throughout the 2016 year. Moving into 2017 and now since we have made the complete transition to a weekly newspaper, we are asking you the public to give to help our cause. Becoming a weekly newspaper has increased our cost of production greatly. I certainly appreciate the many kind words of encouragement from the public at large and thank you to those who have contributed to "Anointed News Journal". If you've been reading "Anointed News Journal" and have never made a financial contribution, now is the perfect time to do so. Send all contributions to: Anointed News Journal, PO Box 309, Camden, NJ 08101. You can also visit "Anointed News Journal" on the web at [www.anointedonline.net](http://www.anointedonline.net) to make a contribution with your credit card by clicking on the donations link. Please don't take for granted that we do not need your support.

Truly yours,  
Chris Collins, CEO/Editor-in-Chief

## ANointed News Journal

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## Call to Salvation

*Have you received your salvation? If not just say, "Father, forgive me of my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and that He arose again from the grave." If you believe this prayer, you are now saved by God's grace. I encourage you to get into a Bible teaching church to learn more about our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ.*

**Note: Opinions by columnists do not reflect those of the editor or staff. Feel free to respond.**

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This edition was dedicated to the memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We also dedicate this to the great people of the State of Alabama for their strength during the Civil Rights Movement. It was the strength of the people of Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, AL that helped to change the face of this nation for everyone. May God continue to bless you all.

By Chris Collins - CEO/Editor-in-Chief



## The Faith & Politics Institute

Cultivating Conscience Courage Compassion  
2018 Congressional  
Civil Rights Pilgrimage: The Life and  
Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**March 2 – 4, 2018: Memphis, TN &  
Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, AL**

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. many of us will reflect on his life and legacy. Two years ago, I was at a community meeting in the city of Camden, NJ and heard US Congressman Donald Norcross talk about a pilgrimage that he went on with US Congressman John Lewis, a host of other members of Congress, dignitaries and President Barack Obama. Congressman Norcross, with passion in his eyes and a very soft humbled voice, spoke of his experiences of walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday. I continued throughout the year to watch a great relationship develop between the legendary Congressman John Lewis and the hometown public servant, Congressman Donald Norcross. The relationship was that of the mentor (Lewis) and the mentee (Norcross). Congressman Norcross gained the full support of Congressman John Lewis, who visited Camden, NJ and spoke to the residents of Camden about his experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ties that Dr. King had to Camden city, which he lived during his time at Crozier Chester Seminary.

January 2018, after the inaugural of newly elected Governor Phil Murphy, I had a brief moment to talk with Congressman Donald Norcross about his experiences once again of crossing that Edmund Pettus Bridge. I extended an opportunity for him to write about his experiences in the Anointed News Journal. The Congressman expressed his interest in writing, but also informed me that the anniversary was coming in March and that we should do it at that time. I said to the congressman, "I would love to have that experience one day of walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge." Immediately, Congressman Norcross extended the invitation to join him on the 2018 Faith & Politics Institute's Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage.

### About The Faith & Politics Institute

Founded in 1991, The Faith & Politics Institute has served hundreds of members of Congress and congressional staff by offering experiential pilgrimages, reflection groups, retreats and public forums. In a world that is increasingly interconnected, we are dedicated to doing this work with the Congress because of members' ties to a broad constituency and their leadership in local, national and global policy. Our belief is that our commitment to a relatively small but influential group of people will ultimately reach many. The Faith & Politics Institute is an agent for change. We do more than create safe spaces for dialogue: we take strategic steps to promote leadership that will have a positive impact on the tone and effectiveness of Congress, and through the Congress, the nation. In many ways, the work of The Faith & Politics Institute has been well ahead of it's time. We have spent a quarter of a century engaging members of Congress, congressional staff and their constituents in bipartisan, inter-faith interaction and learning. Yet there is much work yet to be done.

### The Mission

The Faith & Politics Institute cultivates mutual respect, moral reflection, increased understanding, and honest conversation among political leaders to advance productive discourse and constructive collaboration.

### The Vision

The United States will be governed by individuals whose political work is motivated by courage, conscience, and compassion, inspired to work across race, party, and religion toward a more perfect union.

### Arriving in Washington DC

With great excitement and the urgency to arrive on time in Washington, DC to meet up with Congressman Donald Norcross, my son Christopher, drove me from Camden, NJ to the Rayburn House Office Building Horseshoe in Washington.



**JONATHAN CAPEHART, AMERICAN JOURNALIST AND CONTRIBUTOR TO MSNBC  
INTERVIEWING ELMORE NICKLEBERRY, SANITATION WORKER**

It was necessary because all participants had to arrive by 6:30am, and the earliest AMTRAK train didn't arrive in Washington from Philadelphia until approximately 7:00am.

Upon check in, your luggage had to be screened and on the truck by 7:15am. There were no exceptions! If your luggage was not checked, it didn't get on the airplane.

While at the Rayburn House Office Building, I had the pleasure of meeting all of the pilgrims for this pilgrimage. They came from all four corners of the United States and represented all faiths, political affiliations, corporate business and a few community stakeholders.

With a look of excitement, Congressman Donald Norcross entered the room and immediately began to introduce me to several of his colleagues. He explained what goes on at the Rayburn House Office Building. He introduced me to two of the "Four Donalds" in Congress, which are: Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA), Congressman Donald McEachin (D-VA), Congressman Donald Norcross (D-NJ) and Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ). Seeing the camaraderie among the Donalds was cool. It was like old high school buddies on a class trip. Congressman Norcross brought something to my attention that I felt was interesting, with over 200 members of Congress being lawyers, he is the only Representative that was an electrician. I believe this is why he works so passionately in Washington, fighting for equal pay for women and to increase the minimum wage for American families.

As we prepared to board the buses and to be bused to the airport, the security process began to tighten up with the Capitol Police as our escort. I reckon with so many members of Congress on this pilgrimage, it was extremely necessary for the added protection. On this Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage, there were 29 members of Congress which included 8 Republicans and 21 Democrats;

### Honorary Co-Hosts

- Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
- Senator Doug Jones (D-AL)
- Representative Bradley Byrne (R-AL)
- Representative Steven Cohen (D-TN)
- Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
- Representative John Lewis (D-GA) – Pilgrimage Chair
- Representative David Kustoff (R-TN)
- Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) & Spouse
- Representative Gary Palmer (R-AL)
- Representative Martha Roby (R-AL)
- Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL)

### Additional Members

- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) & Spouse
- Representative Don Beyer (D-VA)
- Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN) & Spouse
- Representative John Delaney (D-MD) & Spouse
- Representative Val Demings (D-FL)
- Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN)
- Representative Jimmy Gomez (D-CA) & Spouse
- Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) & Spouse

- Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA)
- Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- Representative Donald McEachin (D-VA)
- Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
- Representative Donald Norcross (D-NJ)
- Representative Tom Rooney (R-FL)
- Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
- Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD)
- Representative Juan Vargas (D-CA)

As you can see, this pilgrimage was at the highest level and included Board Members from The Faith and Politics Institute;

- Jane Campbell
- Michael Collins
- Shannon Sedgwick Davis
- Matt Gelman
- Dan Glickman
- Norma Kachler
- Ambassador Thomas Graham, Jr.
- Cheryl Johnson
- Rob Liberatore
- Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
- Timothy McBride
- Tiffany Moore
- Florence W. Prioleau
- Meighan Stone
- Bob Van Wicklin

### Friday, May 2, 2018 Memphis, TN and Birmingham, AL

This was indeed my first experience being escorted by top law enforcement officials, and I must say, it reminded us that this pilgrimage represented some of the nations most precious people, such as the legendary, Congressman John Robert Lewis, who lead this pilgrimage and shared many personal stories along the way, and we were all a part of walking in the footsteps of Civil Rights legends, with many of them walking right besides us.

Under complete motorcycle escort and as the three buses with approximately 180 pilgrims drove onto the runway, and up to the steps of an American Airline chartered jet, Capitol Police and special agents surrounded all parameters with weapons drawn to assure our protection.

### Arriving in Memphis, TN

At approximately 10:05am, our group of pilgrims arrived in Memphis, TN and departed for Mason Temple C.O.G.I.C., which is the church that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his final sermon, "I've Been to the Mountaintop."

Again, with Capitol Police riding on the buses with us, riding in black SUV's in front and in between each bus, with Tennessee State Police and Memphis Police taking the lead escorting us, and with a helicopter in the air overtop of us being our eyes from the sky, we arrived at Mason Temple at approximately 10:30am.

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IMAGE OF THE SANITATION TRUCK IN MEMPHIS, TN

### "I Am A Man:" The Road to Jericho

Mason Temple is the home of Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ. As we entered the sanctuary which held 15,000 people on April 3, 1968, the night before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his final speech in support of the sanitation workers strike, the Tennessee Mass Choir rendered a few selections. We heard words from the Honorable Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and the Honorable Steve Cohen (D-TN), who were both co-host. We then had the opportunity to meet Elmore Nickleberry, a sanitation worker. Elmore was part of a panel discussion led by moderator Jonathan Capehart, an American Journalist and contributor to MSNBC.

Elmore Nickleberry was a sanitation worker back in 1968 when Dr. King came to Memphis to support the sanitation workers. Elmore worked 9 hours a day for \$1.25 per day. Today, after working for the Memphis Sanitation Department, some 50 plus years later, he continues to drive the sanitation truck and only makes \$17 per hour. With more than 50 years of service to the city of Memphis, Elmore Nickleberry and other sanitation workers still have no pension.

Following the panel discussion, and staring at the pulpit, the place where Dr. King himself stood, the recording of the sermon, "I've Been to the Mountaintop" played. Complete silence as your bones chilled to the delivery of Dr. King's words, as if he was there in that sanctuary with you.

### "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

Following the event at Mason Temple, it was now time to head over to the Lorraine Motel for a wreath laying ceremony.

The Lorraine Motel is where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would frequently stay whenever in Memphis. This is also where he stood on the balcony to address a crowd in the parking lot, when from approximately 200 meters away, out of a small cracked open window, a single bullet was fired and killed Dr. King on April 4, 1968. This week coming will represent the 50th Anniversary of his assassination.

The Lorraine Motel today is a National Civil Rights Museum. As you enter into the front of the hotel, each room has been gutted through and several exhibits are displayed, recounting moments of the Civil Rights Movement. Exhibits included;

- I Am A Man
- Rosa Parks on the Bus
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott
- The Woolworth's Lunch Counter
- The Classrooms for whites and blacks
- Protest for Decent Housing
- Memphis Sanitation Trucks
- The Police in Gas Mask
- The Assassination
- Dr. King's Motel Rooms

What was interesting was that every time Dr. King would stay in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel, he would stay in room 307, and it was never publicized that he was staying there. Unfortunately, on this time, he was staying in room 306 and somehow it was made public that Dr. King was staying at the Lorraine Motel in room 306. The gunman, James



LOCATION APPROXIMATELY 230 METERS ACROSS THE STREET WHERE THE ASSASSIN SHOT DR. KING FROM: THE CENTER BUILDING RIGHT WINDOW TOP



PERMANENT WREATH THAT LAYS OUTSIDE DR. KING'S ROOM WHERE HE DIED INSTANTLY THE VEHICLES DRIVEN BY DR. KING AND REV ABERNATHY ARE PERMANENTLY PARKED

Earl Ray, was in a building just across the street on a slight angle and had a perfect shot. That building where the gunman was, is now vacant as an exhibit and the window remains slightly cracked open.

During our visit to the Lorraine Motel and National Civil Rights Museum, several members of Congress, joined Father Nicholas Vieron and soloist Deborah Manning-Thomas, for a wreath laying ceremony just below the motel room where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. The wreath was laid to the right of the two vehicles (Dodge and Cadillac), driven by Dr. King's delegation that day in 1968, that remain parked below room 306 as an exhibit. Other speakers included; Joan Mooney, President & CEO, Faith & Politics Institute; Terri Freeman, President, National Civil Rights Museum; and Gina Adams, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, FedEx Corporation.

Following the ceremony, we all gathered in the reception hall of the Lorraine Motel for lunch. Lunch included some of

what Memphis is famous for; pulled BBQ pork, BBQ beef brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, banana pudding and iced tea.

### From Memphis to Birmingham

It was now time to board the buses and proceed to the Memphis Airport. This time our pilgrimage picked up some additional pilgrims and we were now about 200 plus strong. While traveling to the airport, the City of Memphis Police Motorcycle Brigade secured the highways, the Capitol Police protected each one of us, and the helicopter secured the airways.

At approximately 4:05pm, our Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage arrived in Birmingham, AL. We then traveled from the airport straight to the 16th Street Baptist Church.

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The 16th Street Baptist Church is where just 14 days after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his "I Have A Dream" speech, as a retaliation, three Ku Klux Klan members planted dynamite outside the church basement. The explosion killed four young girls whose funeral was attended by over 8,000 people, black and white.

## "Hate is Too Great a Burden to Bear"

From Experiencing Hate to Living a Life of Nonviolence  
As we arrived at the 16th Street Baptist Church, the four tour buses under heavy security, filed in formation as we exited. We all gathered on the steps of the 16th Street Baptist Church for a photo with all of the pilgrims. Many of the people of Birmingham were waiting for our arrival.

Joan Mooney, carrying the wreath, with a few members of Congress by her side, including Congressman John Lewis, slowly walked along the sidewalk of 16th Street Baptist Church, to the very place where the dynamite exploded. At that location, there a monument with the names of the four girls killed in the explosion; Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley.

As we entered 16th Street Baptist Church, we were greeted by Reverend Arthur Price, who is the current pastor there. There, we were able to witness a panel discussion moderated by Joan Mooney, President & CEO, Faith & Politics Institute. The panel included; Marian Daniel, Rev. Bernard Lafayette and Rev. Dr. Carolyn McKinstry. The panelists were all students of the MLK Freedom Center. Each panelist shared their personal experiences of being part of the Civil Rights Movement and their roles.

## Rev. Dr. Carolyn McKinstry

Rev. Carolyn McKinstry is a native of Birmingham, AL. She was educated in the public schools of Birmingham. She was also a member of the 16th Street Baptist Church and present when the church was bombed. She was about 14 years old at the time of the bombing. She talked about how close she was to the four girls that were killed. One of the victim's father was Carolyn's school teacher. She also mentioned two young boys who were murdered during the time of the bombing; Virgil Ware and Johnny Robinson. The one young man was the only Black photographer in Birmingham. He was responsible for photographing the colored folk's events such as proms, graduations, parties, etc.

Rev. Carolyn McKinstry talked about that day. The girls were getting ready for church and one of them had on a new dress. As one girl was tying the ribbon to the dress, the explosion came. The explosion caused a lot of smoke and no one could see. Sarah Collins, who was a survivor but lost her right eye due to glass being lodged in her eye, cried out for her sister Addie Mae Collins. "Addie, Addie, Addie," she called. There was no answer.

As Rev. Carolyn McKinstry continued to share her experiences of growing up in Birmingham, she began to talk about "Love - Living a life of nonviolence". Although she lost friends and has gained memories that have scarred her for life, it has taught her to love more. She too was part of the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s nonviolent movement. In fact, it was Dr. King himself that eulogized the four little girls in Birmingham, AL.

## Marian Jones Daniel

Marian Jones Daniel was the fifth child born to the late Mr. and Mrs. William T. Jones, Sr. (Bessie). The Jones Family were very active members of Bethel Baptist Church, Collegeville, where Reverend Fred J. Shuttlesworth was pastor and her mother was the church organist. Marian loved music and was inspired at an early age to play the piano. She played for Sunday School and Baptist Training Union.

On December 13, 1962, a group of children were at the church practicing for the Christmas Program. After the rehearsal, she and a group of girls were cleaning the kitchen when a bomb exploded. They were able to escape outside through a cloud of smoke. Marian has scars on her legs from the bomb but her love for God became even stronger. If her God could protect her from a bomb, He could protect her all the days of her life!

## Bombingham

There was a time in our nation's history that Birmingham, AL was called by many, "Bombingham" because of all of the bombings that occurred. Sadly, many of those bombs by the Ku Klux Klan targeted children, churches and the homes of black families. Despite the attempts of hatred by white supremacists, the love of God superseded it all.

## Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette

Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette was a student activist in the Nashville, TN, sit-in Campaign of 1960, and a longtime staff member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He gained a reputation as a steadfast proponent of nonviolence before Dr. King offered him the position of Program Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1967.

Rev. Lafayette shared his experiences with us of what it meant to be nonviolent. On a certain day, he went into a greyhound bus terminal, that was supposed to be integrated, to make a phone call. Fourteen white cab drivers walked into the terminal and beat him up. After the cabbies finished, Rev. Lafayette stood up, looked each one of them in the eyes, because he wanted to see the very soul of these evil men, and said to them, "Now, if you gentlemen are finished, I would like to make my phone call now."

Rev. Lafayette talked about the nonviolence movement and the many arguments amongst the church folk because a strategy was to get the children involved. Many felt the church and adults of Birmingham were supposed to protect the children. After a while, children began to cut school and come to the church in order to get involved in the movement. It was so many children joining the movement that the argument became, how do we stop these children from participating.

As the movement commenced, children were beaten, bitten by dogs, hosed down by firehoses that looked like military weapons, and more.

Rev. Lafayette talked about how he was beaten and thrown in jail 27 times. Then he corrected himself and said, "I was beaten 27 times and thrown in jail 30 times. I was arrested an additional three times while already in jail."

## Nonviolence

The people of Birmingham are amazing! The Black people of Birmingham are not like any other I've ever met, anywhere. Despite the bombings and the tactics of Bull Connor, unleashing dogs and firehoses on innocent children and young people, the Black people of Birmingham only know love. That's it! Love!

Oftentimes I hear many of my colleagues and members of my community argue when it comes to civil rights, especially our voting rights. Many say, "We were beaten, hosed down, bitten by dogs and thrown in jail for our right to vote and our civil rights." That statement is true to a certain point, but no, you were not beaten, hosed down, bitten by dogs and thrown into jail. I met some of those who were, and they don't think like us. In fact, Black people of the deep south often talk about us up north, including myself. They feel that if Black folk up north stuck together like many do in the south, we as a people would be better off and would be able to accomplish more as a people. Black people in Birmingham, Alabama suffered at the hand of Bull Connor, but they have no hatred in their hearts. Up north, we understand what our people have gone through, but we still have hatred and/or bitterness in our hearts. Some of us at least!

## Kelly Ingram Park

After listening to these dynamic Civil Rights Leaders at the 16th Street Baptist Church, Congressman Donald Norcross and I took a walk across the street to Kelly Ingram Park. Kelly Ingram Park is located directly adjacent to the 16th Street Baptist Church and across the street from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. This park has statues of everything that dealt with Birmingham during the Civil Rights Movement. There was a monument of the four girls killed in the church bombing, the two young boys murdered in Birmingham and Sarah Collins who is a survivor of the 16th Street Church Bombing. There were also monuments of

Birmingham Police Officers unleashing dogs on children, the firehoses used in hosing down the children, children actually with their backs turned to the hoses, the jail cells that housed children and so much more. At the very entrance to the park and facing the 16th Street Baptist Church, was a statue of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Congressman and I found ourselves to be extremely humbled by our experiences of the day. We stood in front of Dr. King's life size statue and could only feel compassionate and thankful of his leadership in this nation, even though some of his own were against him. Seeing Congressman Norcross with his watery eyes as he knelt down to get a closer look at the images of the four girls who died in the church bombing, was very touching. Congressman Norcross also caught me having a moment as I stood in front of Dr. King's Statue and was taken away as I noticed that the words inscribed on it gave record of his birthdate and assassination date. Usually you see born on... and died on..., however in this case, it is extremely clear this statue reminds us that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Reception & Tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute  
During our visit to Birmingham, we were fortunate to be in the company of Senator Doug Jones, who recently won the Alabama Senate over the scandal-scared Roy S. Moore. Senator Doug Jones was extremely welcoming to our pilgrimage. The people of Birmingham love him in a very special way and it was clear that the Black vote rallied in full force to help him gain the victory over the longtime Republican Senator Roy S. Moore.

Before we entered into the candlelight dinner reception, Congressman Donald Norcross and I toured the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Although somewhat similar to the National Civil Rights museum in Memphis, but unique in its own way, because Birmingham had its own experiences that were different. Exhibits at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute included;

- Segregated Ice Cream Counter
- Segregated White Classroom 1953
- Black Classroom 1953
- New Home Hotel for Colored People
- Courtroom
- Aunt Jemima Pancakes
- Ku Klux Klan
- Bombingham
- Rosa Parks on the Bus
- Protest of F.W. Woolworth's Store in Atlantic City, NJ 1960
- Dr. King's Jail Cell: "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- March on Washington
- Birmingham Police Armored Vehicle
- 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing

One exhibit that really hit the two of us hard was that of an enclosed case with the new shoes worn by one of the girls killed in the church bombing. What really hit hard was the size of the stone, approximately 3 to 4 inches, that was dislodged from the skull of the little girl.

## "Power at its Best"

### Candlelight Dinner & Conversation

It was now time to go under the candlelight tent for dinner and conversation with Senator Doug Jones and Dana Bash, CNN news reporter.

Congressman John Lewis introduced Senator Doug Jones and CNN's Chief Political Correspondent, Dana Bash. Prior to the introduction, Andrea L. Taylor, President and CEO, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, called Congressman John Lewis to the front for an unveiling of a life sized portrait of John Lewis, painted by a local artist. Everyone, gave a standing ovation and Congressman John Lewis stood next to the portrait.

The interview with Senator Doug Jones and CNN's Dana Bash, recapped the 2017 Alabama election and the support the Senator gained from the African American voters. Senator Jones spoke of his childhood, growing up in Alabama. He spoke of how many kids in his community were sheltered from what was going on years prior in Alabama. He also spoke of his days of working on Wall Street and when he was at Stanford University studying law. It was in 1977 when the first case and person of interest in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing was on trial.

Continued on page 7



Continued from page 6

People remember Senator Doug Jones's cases in prosecuting two of the perpetrators in the church bombing in 2001-2002, because they are more recent. But the first case was in 1977.

Senator Jones would cut class in law school to sit in the courtroom and listen to the case. A person by the name of, Dynamite Bob Chambliss, was tried and convicted in the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing. 24 years later, as the US Attorney, Senator Doug Jones, had the opportunity to prosecute the other persons responsible. Senator Jones talked about why he prosecuted them 24 years later. He did it because it was the right thing to do. He recounted details of the events surrounding the bombings and how years later, he found a tape recording from the FBI, that had Tommy Blanton talking to his then wife Jean, who had been his alibi for many years. The tape mentioned when asked by his wife, "Where are you going?" Blanton said on three occasions, "To the river to make the bomb." His conspired with Herman Frank Cash and Bobby Frank Cherry. His wife acknowledge that she lied under oath about where they were that night of the bombing. Blanton is serving life in prison currently and was recently denied parole in August 2016.

During the candlelight dinner, Congressman Donald Norcross and I had the pleasure of sitting at the dinner table with; Marian Daniel, Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Rev. Dr. Carolyn McKinstry and Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe. These were the panelists during the earlier conversation at the church. Our meals were served family style and included unlimited amounts of fried chicken, homily grits & shrimp, collard greens, cornbread, banana pudding, iced tea, wine and great fellowship. When it was over, we still left about twenty pieces of fried chicken on the table. If this was a sign of how the people of Alabama cook and eat, the Congressman and I were in for trouble. Just to think, this was just the first day of our pilgrimage.

## From Birmingham to Montgomery

It was now time to board the buses for the long ride from Birmingham to Montgomery, AL. Full and in some cases, stuffed to capacity from the big lunch in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel and the never-ending dinner in Birmingham, many of the pilgrims fought to stay awake during the 90 minute bus ride to Montgomery. Unfortunately, most of us lost that battle.

## Montgomery RON at the Renaissance

At approximately 9:30pm, we all arrived in Montgomery, AL at the Renaissance Hotel. Because we picked up additional pilgrims in Memphis, some of the pilgrims stayed across the street at the Embassy Suites and some around the corner at the Holiday Inn.

Our accommodations were at the highest levels as well as the security protection. At the end of the day, we all had to understand that with this many government officials in one location at one time, we were all targets and couldn't take anything for granted.

## Saturday, May 3, 2018 Montgomery, AL

As if we needed to eat again. Still full from all of the southern hospitality and great food, we now gather downstairs of the Renaissance for breakfast; hash brown casserole, Conecuh Sausage, scrambled eggs, oatmeal, bacon, cereal, fruit, French toast, coffee, juice, milk, etc. It was close to being insane! I've come to the conclusion, one more plate of shrimp & grits or Conecuh Sausage; somebody is going to have to find me an apartment in Montgomery, AL. The food was fantastic! I believe the Congressman had enough banana pudding, which is his favorite, to last for quite some time.

The Content of their Character: Children of the Movement After breakfast, we were off to Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Rev. Cromwell Handy, Pastor of this church where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. himself, pastored.

The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church was founded in 1877. Construction for the current church began in 1883 and was finished in 1889. Martin Luther King, Jr. pastored the church after Vernon Johns. Dr. King helped to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott from his basement office in this church. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



MEMBERS OF CONGRESS LAY WREATH AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL



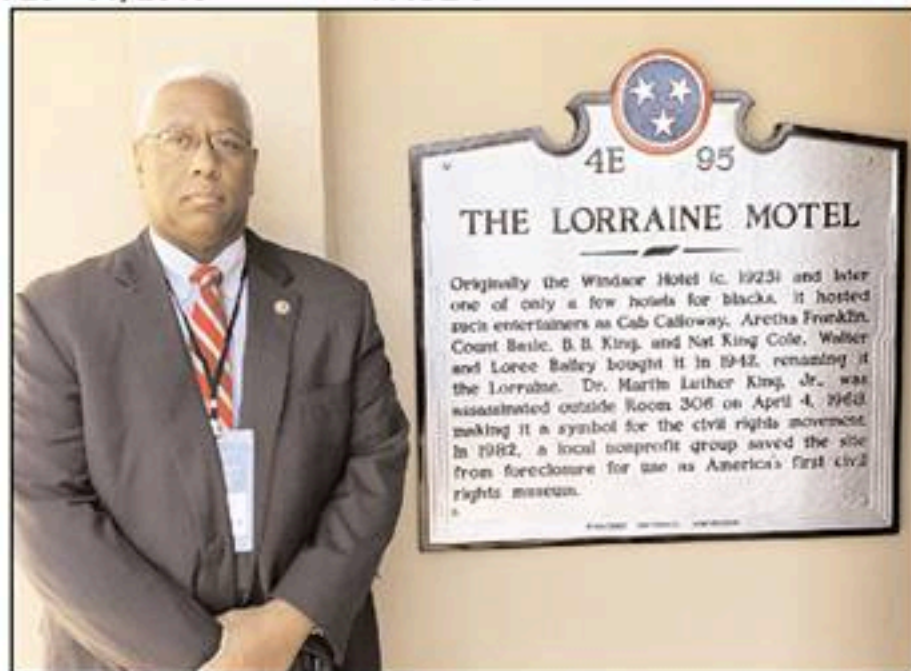
I had the honor to meet Elmore Nickleberry, a lifelong Memphis resident and sanitation worker. Elmore, an AFSCME member, was one of the workers holding an "I am a man" sign during the 1968 sanitation strike and he somberly recounted the painful memories from that time. As a union member myself who has been on the picket line on many occasions, I can only imagine the strength of character it took to stand up to the white leaders during that struggle.







**EXHIBITS OF DR. KING'S MOTEL ROOM AT THE LORRAINE. ROOM 307 HE WOULD USUALLY STAY IN THIS ROOM BUT ON APRIL 3, 1968, HE STAYED IN ROOM 306**



**CONGRESSMAN DONALD MCEACHIN (D-VA)**



**VISUAL OF BALCONY WHERE DR. KING STOOD AND ACROSS THE STREET YOU SEE WHERE JAMES EARL RAY WAS POSITIONED**



**BLACK WOMEN WALKING AND NOT RIDING THE BUS MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT**



**BLACK STUDENTS AT THE WOOLWORTH'S LUNCH COUNTER BEING HARASSED BY WHITE MEN**

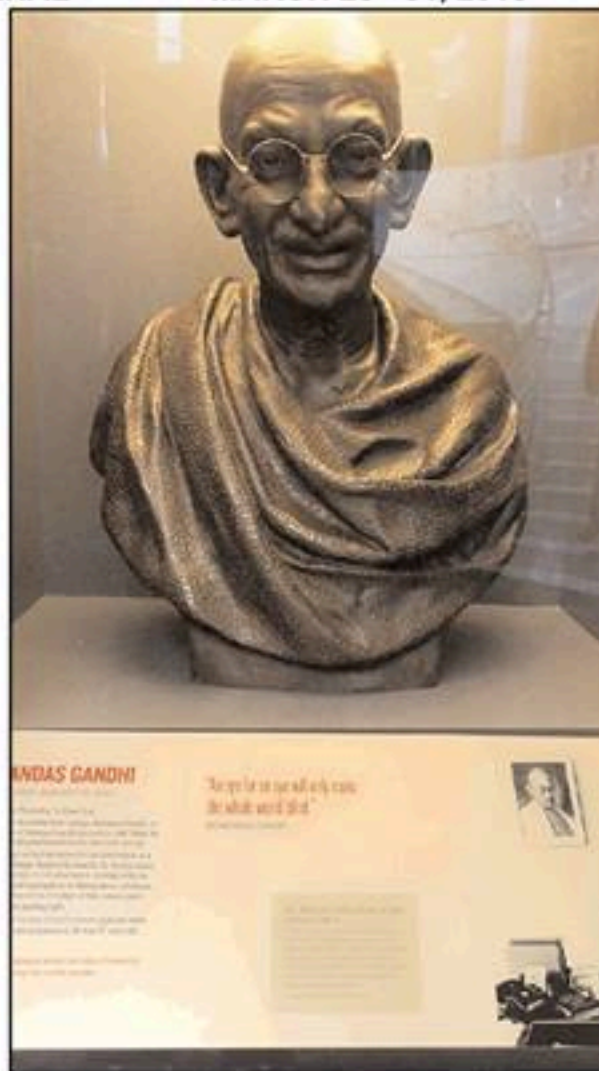


**BOMBING OF A GREYHOUND BUS**





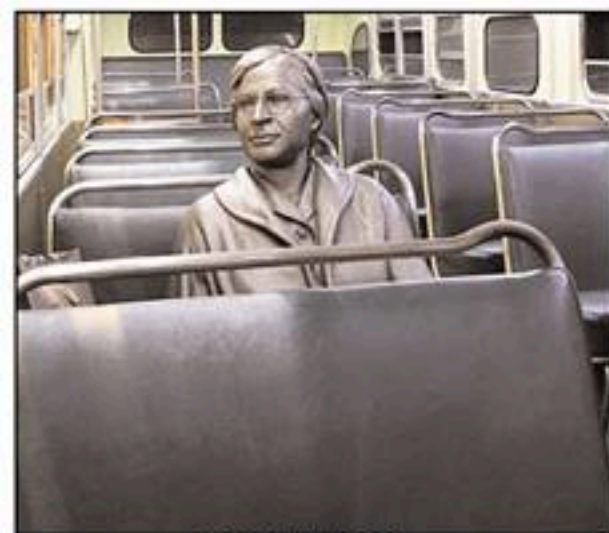
THIS IS THE PULPIT DR. KING  
GAVE HIS FINAL SERMON



GANDHI



CONGRESSMAN NORCROSS  
WITH STUDENTS FROM WASHINGTON



ROSA PARKS



BLOODY SUNDAY STANDOFF



DOGS UNLEASHED ON KIDS



SLAVE TRADE EXHIBIT



HOSES USED ON BLACK CHILDREN





## Martin Luther King III

At Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, we were all pleased to be graced by the presence of Martin Luther King III.

Martin Luther King III gave a special thanks to Mrs. Abernathy, the wife of the late Rev. Ralph Abernathy, who was Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s greatest friend. Martin Luther King III acknowledge several familiar faces as well as many of those who marched as children during "Bloody Sunday". King explained his emotions of standing in the place where his father pastored for many years. Martin Luther King III continues to reside in Georgia, where Congressman John Lewis is his representative.

Martin Luther King III was ten years old when his dad was killed. He spoke of the trauma that he and his siblings experienced during that time. They lost their father and Coretta Scott King, lost her husband. Although they had great loss, they believe the nation gleaned an incredible message and an understanding of a movement that transformed this nation. King spoke of his parents wanting to rid this nation of the triple evils of racism, poverty and violence. He reminded us that we live in a nation that has 40-50 million people living in poverty, yet our nation has a twenty trillion dollar economy. Something is wrong with that and it's unacceptable. We can and must do a better job! We all know about racism, and MLK III feels that now we are beginning to have real conversations about it. MLK III would like to hope that President Donald Trump doesn't want to divide this nation, but every week, Trump says things that does divide it. MLK III reminded Congressman John Lewis that just as we worked on George Wallace's heart, we have to work on Donald Trump's heart. "Certainly, if George Wallace could transform, then there's hope for Donald Trump," said King III. MLK III never could imagine living in a nation that goes all around the world promoting democracy but suppresses democracy here at home. He referred to voter suppression here in the United States. Some people who might not have decent or correct identification cannot vote. There are about 170 democracies around the world and the United States votes at 138. That means 137 other countries vote at a higher rate than us. There's something wrong with that. Although we know the issues, we must do better. We need to have more online registrations and same day registrations. MLK III suggested that we should probably change the elections day from a Tuesday to another day. He referred to the comedian Chris Rock, when he said, "If you were going to throw a party, would you do it on a Tuesday?" In other words, we need to get away from traditions and make it possible for everyone to maximize voter participation.

King III also spoke on gender inequality and responsible gun laws. He reminded us that his father was assassinated by a gun, his uncle mysteriously drowned, and his grandmother was gunned down in church, sitting on the piano, playing the Lord's Prayer. "My father was killed by a white man. My grandmother was killed by a black man. So, I could have hated all of ya'll," said King. But he is thankful for the spirit of forgiveness because it teaches you how to dislike the evil act, but to still love the individual. MLK III believes that in America, we have to learn how to forgive.



PANELISTS: CAPEHEART, WALLACE-KENNEDY, ZELLNER, LIUZZO LILLEBOE & DOAR

## Children of the Movement

Following Martin Luther King III, there was a panel discussion that included the children of the movement; Peggy Wallace Kennedy, Robert Doar, Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe and Robert Zellner.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This panel discussion was moderated by Jonathan Capeheart, MSNBC contributor journalist. What was brought to our attention and noticed, was this panel consisted of all white participants. They were all children whose parents were part of the movement.

## Peggy Wallace Kennedy

Peggy Wallace Kennedy was born into one of the most powerful political families in the history of the American South. Peggy Wallace Kennedy is recognized as one of America's most important voices for peace and reconciliation. From her unique perspective of living behind the gates of the Alabama's Governor's Mansion as her father, George Wallace, rose to become one of America's most influential populists, Peggy Wallace Kennedy offers a compelling narrative of her family's history and its relevance to the current version of the politics of rage.

Peggy Wallace Kennedy shared her story of taking a long drive to her grandparents' home with her parents. As soon as they arrived, her grandfather told her dad that people were trying to get ahold of him. A black woman was arrested because she refused to get to the back of the bus in Montgomery, AL and her grandfather suspected there would be trouble.

Peggy Wallace Kennedy also shared a very special moment in her life just a few years ago during the Faith & Politics Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage, when she and Bernice Scott King, the daughter of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. embraced each other in love on the steps of the Capital in Montgomery. This fulfilled the part of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech, "that one day right down in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be joining hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

Peggy Wallace Kennedy also mentioned that before her father George Wallace died, he requested to be taken to the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, they wheeled him down to the front of the church, George Wallace asked the people of the church to forgive him for his wrong doings, and they did.

## Dr. Bob Zellner

Dr. Bob Zellner was born and raised in south Alabama, the second of five boys born to a Methodist minister James Abraham Zellner and school teacher Ruby Hardy Zellner. Dr. Bob Zellner informed us that his grandfather was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and his father was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Ironically, Dr. Bob Zellner along with his wife Dottie, joined the SNCC ("Snick") and became Freedom Riders with Congressman John Lewis.

Arrested 18 times in seven states, he organized in Macomb, Mississippi; Albany, Georgia; Danville, Virginia; Talladega, Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as New Haven, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts. Zellner was charged with everything from criminal anarchy in Baton Rouge to "inciting the black population to acts of war and violence against the white population" in Danville, Virginia. When SNCC became an all-Black organization in 1967, Zellner and his wife Dottie joined SCEF, the Southern Conference Educational Fund to organize an anti-racism project for black and white workers in the Deep South called GROW, Grass Roots Organizing Work, also called Get Rid of Wallace. Grow built a residential educational facility in New Orleans and began organizing the Gulf Coast Pulpwood Association while working in Laurel, Mississippi where a wildcat strike involving black and white Masonite factory workers and woodcutters spread across the southern states.

## Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe

Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe has been immersed in the Civil Rights Movement since her mother's murder by the Ku Klux Klan in 1965 while participating in the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. Through the years, Mary realized her mother's death, not her life, had overshadowed everything she did. In a quest to feel close to the mother she lost and to celebrate her life, Mary traveled through the South talking to people that her mother spent the last days of her life with.

As she learned of her mother's activities in Selma and rediscovering the woman who raised her, she also learned of the stories of the people her mother went to Selma to help. The people of the movement embraced and nurtured Mary. They mentored her and her life's path was determined.

Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe shared that after Bloody Sunday when Dr. King put the national call out for everyone to come to Selma and join the march for voting rights, her mother, Viola Liuzzo, left her husband and five children in Detroit, Michigan, to come to Selma and help in any way she could. Mary Liuzzo's father begged his wife not to get involved in Selma, but she did anyway.

Viola Liuzzo would use her vehicle to transport people and food back and forth to the meeting camps and the Greyhound Bus Terminal. On her last ride, and while with a black passenger by the name of Leroy Moton, on their way from Selma to Montgomery after the march on March 25, 1965, Klansmen followed Liuzzo's car along Highway 80 for twenty miles, then pulled alongside and fired shots from a shotgun. Liuzzo was killed instantly and Moton, covered with her blood, escaped by pretending to be dead when the killers returned.

Because this group of Klansmen included an FBI informant, Liuzzo lost her life in more ways than one. To deflect attention and to cover up his recklessness in permitting a known violent racist to work undercover during the march, J. Edgar Hoover crafted a malicious public relations campaign that unfairly portrayed Liuzzo as an unstable woman who abandoned her family to stir up trouble in the South.

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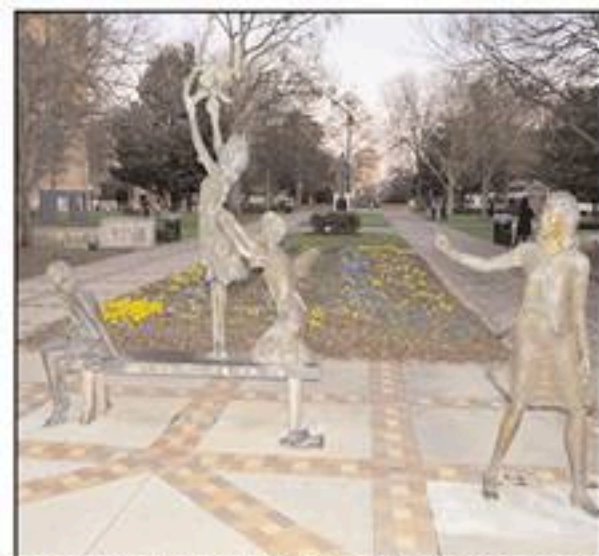




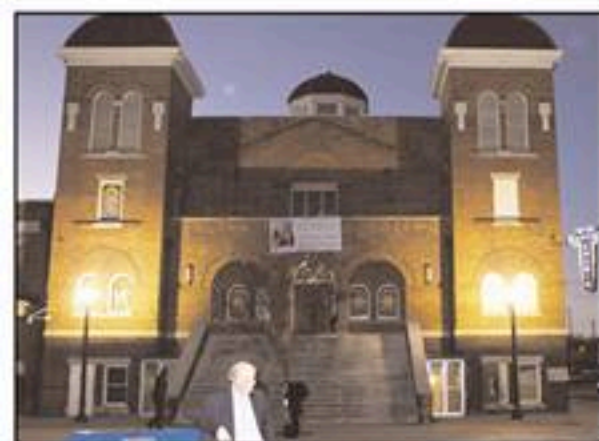
CONGRESSMAN NORCROSS WITH  
MARTIN LUTHER KING III & FAMILY



MEMBERS OF CONGRESS JOIN JOAN MOONEY AS THEY CARRY THE WREATH TO THE SITE OF  
THE CHURCH BOMBING



MONUMENT OF FOUR GIRLS KILLED IN BOMBING



TOP: 16TH STREET BAPTIST UNDER NIGHT LIGHTS

BOTTOM: CONGRESSMAN NORCROSS LOOKING AT THE FACES  
OF CHILDREN THAT DIED DUE TO EXPLOSION BY KLANSMEN



WREATH LAYING AT THE PLACE WHERE THE DYNAMITE EXPLODED KILLING FOUR GIRLS AT  
16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

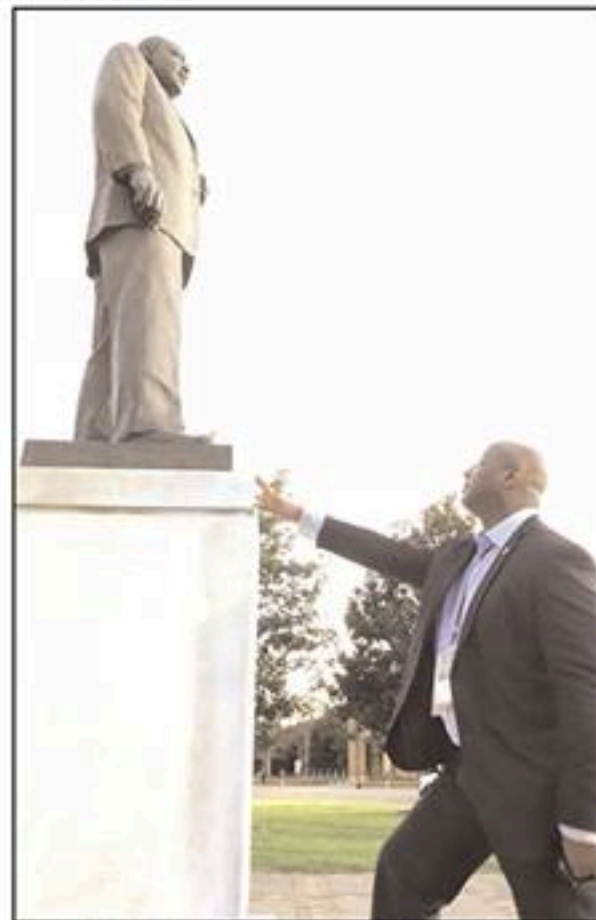
BELOW: SENATOR DOUG JONES INTERVIEWED BY DANA BASH, CNN







2018 CONGRESSIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMS



REV. CHRIS COLLINS REFLECTING  
ON THE LIFE OF DR. M.L. KING, JR.



TOP: MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND FAITH & POLITICS INSTITUTE

BOTTOM: PANELISTS; MCKINSRITY, LAFAYETTE & DANIEL



CONGRESSMAN NORCROSS REFLECTING  
ON THE LIFE OF DR. M.L. KING, JR.  
BELOW: PRESIDENT & CEO JOAN MOONEY





## Robert Doar

Robert Doar is the Morgridge Fellow in Poverty Studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where his research focuses on how improved federal and state antipoverty policies and safety net programs can reduce poverty, connect individuals to work, strengthen families, and increase opportunities for low-income Americans and their children.

Mr. Doar's father, John Doar, had a notable role as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights from 1961 to 1965 and as head of the division from 1965 until 1967, during the civil rights years of the administrations of President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. He led the government's response in events such as the admission and protection of James Meredith as the first black student to the University of Mississippi, as well as the evolving response to the civil rights movement promoting integration and voter registration in the South.

A special moment that was noted during this panel discussion was that it was Robert Doar's father who prosecuted the Klansmen that killed Viola Liuzzo and Robert Doar and Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe never met each other until that day.

## Until Justice Rolls Down Like Waters"

Wreath Laying at Civil Rights Memorial, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center

As we exited the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, we marched down the street to the Civil Rights Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony.

Created by Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin, the Memorial is located across the street from the Southern Poverty Law Center's office building in Montgomery, Alabama, a city rich with civil rights history.

A circular black granite table records the names of the martyrs and chronicle the history of the movement in lines that radiate like the hands of a clock. Water emerges from the table's center and flows evenly across the top. On a curved black granite wall behind the table is engraved Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s well-known paraphrase of Amos 5:24 - We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.

As the pilgrims gathered around the granite table, Bettie Mae Fikes sang a spiritual hymn, "This Little Light of Mine."

Congressman John Lewis, Joan Mooney and Nelson Watkins, then placed the wreath upon the granite table and as the water spread evenly across the table, the wreath traveled slowly into the center of the table. Also in attendance were the parents of Heather Heyer, Civil Rights Activist and victim of Charlottesville car attack on August 13, 2017. Mrs. Heyer, held onto Bettie Mae Fikes tightly as Bettie Mae sang a song in her honor.

## "Who Holds the Future"

It was now time to board the buses again and travel not too far away to First Baptist Church. This was the church that Rev. Ralph Abernathy pastored and where a young John Robert Lewis first met Dr. King.

While at First Baptist Church, Mrs. Abernathy welcomed everyone, along with Rev. Baxter Morris who is the current pastor there. During her welcome address, Mrs. Abernathy shared word about Congressman John Lewis while introducing him. The Congressman added a little humor by saying, "Mrs. Abernathy told my story."

Congressman John Lewis shared that when he was a child growing up in Troy, Alabama, he lived on a farm. His parents wanted him to work the farm, but John Lewis wanted to go to school. Each morning, he would get up extra early in the morning, get dressed for school and hide under the porch until the school bus came. He would then run to the bus and get on board.

When John Lewis applied for college and was denied, he wrote a letter to Dr. King. Dr. King wrote him back, sent him a bus ticket to come to Montgomery to visit him when John Lewis had a break in school. It was at First Baptist Church where John Lewis first met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy. During the initial meeting, Dr. King asked him, "Are you the boy from Troy?" John Lewis replied, "My name is John Robert Lewis." Dr. King looked at Rev. Abernathy and said, "The boy from Troy."

During our visit to First Baptist Church, there was a panel discussion presented by a few students of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center. Following the presentation, it was time for lunch.

My, my, my! Lunch was massive! A full spread; BBQ ribs, fried & BBQ chicken, pulled pork, ox tail, pig feet, potato salad, macaroni salad, yams, mac and cheese, lemon cake, carrot cake, chocolate cake, sweet potato pie, apple pie, iced tea, soda, water, and the list goes on. It was just around 12:30pm and many of us were still full, from our 8:30am massive breakfast. Mrs. Abernathy jumped the line in front of me. I said, "Mrs. Abernathy, if you are going to jump me in line, you are going to have to give me a hug." Wow! What a hug from this living legend. At this point, I was pretty well convinced that I would be finding a small apartment in Montgomery, AL, even if it's just for the meals they cook there.

## Montgomery Walking Tour

After lunch we boarded the buses again to visit the neighborhood where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived while in Montgomery. The buses parked in formation just outside of the Malden Brothers barbershop. This is the place where Dr. King, Rev. Abernathy and others would often strategize. As some pilgrims visited the barbershop, others wandered down to the next block where Dr. King's last earthly home is.

Congressman Donald Norcross and I walked to the single family home, where Dr. King lived. As we entered, there was a curator that gave a tour of the home. The furniture was the actual furniture that was in the house when the Kings lived there. Each room set up exactly the way it was. As we entered the kitchen area, seeing the table and chairs reminded me of growing up in the old Roosevelt Manor in Camden, NJ. We had very similar furniture.

Congressman Norcross was engaged with the young ambassadors. One thing about Congressman Donald Norcross, he loves interacting with young students and they seemed to gravitate to him. The congressman would ask the students questions that almost seemed to be trivia, but he was really trying to get knowledge of a particular thing in relationship to the King house and name plaque.

There was a very interesting thing, while standing on the concrete porch; you can notice a nice sized dent in the concrete just above the top step to the left. This was the very spot where a bomb exploded when Klansmen attempted to bomb Dr. King's home. It was brought to our attention that Dr. King was not home but his wife Coretta, a member of the church and his children were home at that time but no one was injured.

## Personal Time: Rosa Parks Museum

As we boarded the buses once again, it was time to head back to the hotels. We all had approximately one hour of what was down time before departing to the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Some pilgrims visited the Rosa Parks Museum and some returned to their rooms to freshen up and change into their dress attire for the evening's reception.

At approximately 5:45pm, we all departed for the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The building was immaculate; marble floors, pillars, table settings very elegant and it sat just across the road from the Capital Building, which glowed in the evening's moonlight. The cocktail reception was somewhat more intimate and we were able to have many conversations with the others. Wine, shrimp cocktail, and all sorts of hors d'oeuvres, set the pace for the evening. This pilgrimage generated so much camaraderie that you really couldn't tell the difference of who was who. Who was a member of Congress? Who was a family member of Congress? Who was a corporate partner? Who was a faith-based partner? It didn't matter what faith or political affiliation, everyone was on the same page.

As dinner arrived to our tables, people began to become intimate with the prime rib, asparagus and mashed potatoes, followed by a small lemon meringue, and the wine of choice. My mind was completely blown away at this point, I'm convinced, Montgomery, just show me the nearest realty office. As much of a beef man that I am, I just simply could not finish my meal. So much food!

"Keep the Faith:" Congressman John Lewis Reflects on Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fifty Years later.

## A Post-Dinner Conversation with Congressman John Lewis and CNN's Dana Bash.

After dinner, Faith & Politics Institute's Board Members and Co-Chairs, Tiffany Moore & Cheryl Johnson, welcomed the pilgrimage into the theater area. Congressman John Lewis shared very candidly about his experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Congressman John Lewis was just 17 years old when he first met Dr. King. He continued to thank all of us for being part of the pilgrimage. Congressman Lewis re-capped, why he contacted Dr. King, which was originally to help him get into college.

John Lewis wanted to preach the Gospel as a little boy. He shared his story of preaching to the chickens and on occasion, baptizing the chickens. However, through the relationship with Dr. King, he became a key part of the Civil Rights Movement. He talked about how he would get in trouble, but good trouble.

Congressman John Lewis talked about visiting Mason Temple on this pilgrimage. This was the first time that he ever visited the church where Dr. King gave his final speech before his assassination.

Congressman Lewis talked about Bloody Sunday and his experiences of being the first to be beaten by state troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Following the one on one interview with Dana Bash, a few students from the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center joined in on the interview.

Other speakers for the post dinner conversation were the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and the Honorable Martha Roby (R-AL).

## Sunday, March 4, 2018 Selma, Alabama

Early morning on Sunday, March 4th, we started out with breakfast at the Renaissance Hotel. This was the day that many of the pilgrims awaited, possibly for some, their entire life. It was the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

At approximately 8:30am, we boarded the buses and travelled from Montgomery to Selma. This ride was approximately 45 minutes along Highway 80, which is the same highway where Viola Liuzzo was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan. As we travelled the highway, Bettie Mae Fikes, shared her story of growing up in Selma and what it was like to march those 50 miles and to cross that Edmund Pettus Bridge. She also pointed out the very spot where Viola's car went off the road.

## Photo at Edmund Pettus Bridge

As we entered into Selma, Alabama on this bright sunny morning, the town looked somewhat depressed, almost as if it were cursed. Many of the businesses were vacant buildings alongside the Alabama River. Nevertheless, the buses parked and one by one, we all had an opportunity to take a photo on the Edmund Pettus Bridge with Congressman John Lewis, as well as a group shot of the entire pilgrimage. We then returned to the buses and were off to Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church. Arriving at the church was somewhat chaotic, there was a lot going on in Selma. The congregation was standing outside awaiting our arrival. The Capital Police, Alabama State Police, Selma Police and the Fire Department were all on full guard as we entered the church. When entering, a firefighter would click the counter to make sure we did not exceed capacity. Wow, I thought that was excessive. I noticed as we entered the choir exited. Once inside, Pastor Leodis Strong, informed the fire marshal that one choir had left the building and to please allow the guest choir to enter.

Continued on page 14



Continued from page 13

## Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Both the building and the members of Brown Chapel AME Church played pivotal roles in the Selma, Alabama, marches that helped lead to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The starting point for the Selma-to-Montgomery marches, Brown Chapel also hosted the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for the first three months of 1965. Another nearby local church, First Baptist, acted as the headquarters for the organizers of the Selma Campaign—the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Brown Chapel AME Church, with its imposing twin towers and Romanesque Revival styling, was built in 1908 by a Black builder—of whom little is known—Mr. A.J. Farley. On Sunday morning (known as Bloody Sunday) March 7, 1965, despite a ban on protest marches by Governor George Wallace, about 600 black protestors gathered outside Brown Chapel to march from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery. Leading the march were the SCLC's Hosea Williams and SNCC's John Lewis. At the Edmund Pettus Bridge, six blocks from Brown Chapel, mounted troopers confronted the marchers and ordered them to disperse. The marchers stood their ground and the troopers advanced, billy clubs raised. Lewis fell, his skull fractured. Others fell, screaming, as white onlookers cheered. Then Sheriff Jim Clark's deputized posse charged the marchers, firing tear gas and swinging bullwhips and rubber tubing wrapped in barbed wire. That night, ABC interrupted its showing of the movie *Judgment at Nuremberg* to air footage of "Bloody Sunday." By morning, news of the event had spread to nearly every American household, and thousands of march supporters began to flock to Selma. On March 9, Martin Luther King, Jr., led a "symbolic" march to the bridge, and on March 21, after Governor Wallace's ban was overruled by Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., King led the five-day march to the capital. Less than five months later President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

Brown Chapel AME Church, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 410, Martin Luther King, Jr., Street.

## The Service at Brown Chapel A.M.E.

The service at Brown Chapel A.M.E. gave way to the likes of many dignitaries; Mrs. Abernathy, Point Loma Nazarene University Choir from San Diego, CA, Rev. Lawrence Wolford, Rev. Jesse Jackson, City of Selma Mayor Darrio Melton, Dr. Mary Rearick Paul, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland), Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Senator Doug Jones (D-AL), Pastor L. Nicole Slater, to name a few. The keynote speaker for the service was none other than the Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Bishop, Ninth Episcopal District, AMEC.

## Walk Across Edmund Pettus Bridge

After the service ended and after having lunch in the church's dining hall, at approximately 3:00pm, the pilgrims gathered in front of Brown Chapel A.M.E. to get in formation for the historic walk from Brown Chapel A.M.E. to and across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This time it was live. Upon exiting the church, the streets were filled with thousands of spectators as far as the eyes could see. Not everyone was supportive of our efforts to march across the bridge. There were some who were protesting and calling out certain members of Congress. What was failed to realize was that every Representative that was on the pilgrimage was in full support of Congressman John Lewis and they all understood the necessity of government working in conjunction with the faith community, to get things accomplished. Had it not been for Dr. King working with members of the Federal Government, things might not have passed as it did.

The crowd was so tight that as the pilgrims interlocked arms, we could barely take a half step, one at a time. As we walked to the curb and got onto the main street, things began to loosen up somewhat. We marched approximately four to five blocks and then made a left turn onto US Route 80 Business, we could see our buses trying to get across the bridge but due to the large amounts of people, it wasn't quite so easy. This was certainly a different scene than just three hours ago when we staged the photo opportunity. There were barely any people on the streets at 9:00am. As we continued to march, Capital Police shielded us on all parameters. Every now and

then, a child would sneak through close enough to get a photo and walk with the living legend, Congressman John Lewis. As we made it to the very top of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, I turned around to look behind me, and to make sure my Congressman was safe, and as far as I could see, for about a mile, the streets were paved with people. As some would say, these people came out of the wood works.

I can understand the people of Selma, Alabama and the frustrations they share. The median household income is approximately, \$12,000. There's a very limited amount of jobs in Selma, if any. Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, sits right smack dab in the middle of a public housing community. This annual event might be just that one event of the year where some are able to get their hustle on and make an additional dollar. The fact of the matter is that Selma is a poor city with little to no resources for its residents.

Despite their long-suffering, the people of Selma, AL are champions. They possess an inner desire to fight for their rights. In fact, not only did they fight for their voting rights, but the Voting Rights Act, helped people throughout the South.

## Returning to Washington, DC

After all of the pilgrims made it back to the buses, it was time to head straight to the Montgomery Airport. For some, there was a small private airport not too far away and we were able to get our chartered airplane there.

What an experience! While on the airplane, I had a conversation with Congressman Ro Khanna (D-CA) about our experiences. We both agreed that every American citizen should at one time or another experience this Civil Rights Pilgrimage. It is as necessary as the Muslim who goes to Mecca and the Hindu follows the footsteps of Mohandas Gandhi.

Once we returned to the airport in Washington, DC and received our luggage, many of the pilgrims just stood around as if they were returning from a class trip. You could certainly feel the love; white, black, Latino, Indian, Asian, republican, democrat, male, female, it didn't matter anymore, we were all one. Congressman Norcross and I had to catch the last train out of Washington to Philadelphia and time was tight, but the Congressman informed me that usually after members of Congress return from a gathering, they are quick to disperse, but this time, no one wanted to leave.

## Benefits of the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage

We were very fortunate to experience the complete journey of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy. Everyone has their own Dr. King's experience. I'm assuming that many of the people who live in Memphis, TN, probably have never been to Birmingham. People in Birmingham, probably never visited Memphis. People in Birmingham might not have ever gone to Selma and likewise, those in Selma probably have never been to Birmingham. We got it all in a very intense, no sleep, short weekend, and our lives have been changed forever.

The 2018 Faith & Politics Institute Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage was covered every step of the way by CNN, MSNBC and the Anointed News Journal was the only print media company to provide detailed coverage of the pilgrimage. We want to give a special thanks to Congressman Donald Norcross, for extending the invitation. Thank you to the Faith & Politics Institute for organizing this pilgrimage. Thank you to the Capital Police for protecting us while on this pilgrimage. Special thank you to the wonderful people of Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama.

## Next Steps

Those of us that were fortunate to attend the 2018 Faith & Politics Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage, have been invited back to Washington, DC for a reunion breakfast on April 12, 2018.

Congressman Donald Norcross and I will be collaborating with the Camden County Historical Society, on Wednesday April 4th, at approximately 6:00pm, to talk about our pilgrimage experiences and to show images and video of parts of our journey. The location for the Historical Society is 1900 Park Blvd, Camden, NJ 08103.

## Reflecting on the Civil Rights Movement: Our MLK Pilgrimage

BY CONGRESSMAN DONALD NORCROSS

Bettie Mae Fikes, a civil rights icon, sang "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" on the bus as we entered Selma, Alabama on a March day with clear skies. Minutes later, hundreds of us walked together across the Edmund Pettus Bridge arm-in-arm and spontaneous chants filled the air, with people saying "thank you John Lewis."

I never pictured such a blue sky over the bridge I saw on television in black-and-white as a young man. And I never thought I'd embrace my now-colleague John Lewis under the arches he infamously crossed on what is now known as Bloody Sunday.

But I'm getting ahead of myself—the walk across the bridge was the last stop on our three-day pilgrimage that took Reverend Collins and I to Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma...

## Meeting in Memphis

Our first stop during the 2018 Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage was the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee and I had the honor to meet Elmore Nickleberry, a lifelong Memphis resident and sanitation worker. Elmore, an AFSCME member, was one of the workers holding an "I am a man" sign during the 1968 sanitation strike and he somberly recounted the painful memories from that time. As a union member myself who has been on the picket line on many occasions, I can only imagine the strength of character it took to stand up to the white leaders during that struggle.

It was the sanitation strike that brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Memphis and the Mason Temple on April 3, 1968 when he gave his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. We listened to the audio recording in those pews from just hours before Dr. King was assassinated. His voice filled the church, but the pulpit was empty. It was moving, prescient and sad, and it led right to the next stop—the Lorraine Motel.

At the spot where Dr. King was shot 50 years ago, we said prayers and thought about how far we've come and how much more we need to achieve.

## Overriding Hate in Birmingham

At the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the brutal church bombing on September 15, 1963 that killed four innocent children, we heard from newly-elected Senator Doug Jones, who successfully prosecuted two of the four men responsible for the church bombings when he was the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama in the 1990s. I haven't seen Senator Jones since he came to Washington and it was touching to meet him on his home turf and hear about how he obtained justice more than 30 years after a horrific hate crime.

The opening scene in the recent movie "Selma" gave the world an idea of what occurred on that fateful day and it shakes you to your core. When we visited the real-life location, we heard from Marian Jones Daniel and Reverend Dr. Carolyn McKinstry who were both at the church during the bombing. They told us what it was like to be there when their friends were killed, and they even showed us their scars and talked about their faith in God following the attack. Reverend Dr. Bernard Lafayette also addressed the crowd, and spoke about working with Dr. King in the 1960s and why they always chose a path of nonviolence.

Continued on page 15



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One of my favorite Dr. King quotes has always been, "hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that" – and I kept thinking about those words at the 16th Street Church. During the pilgrimage, I learned that Dr. King was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and had a collection of his books. I believe we should all remember Mahatma Gandhi's credo on nonviolence that "an eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind."

## Movements Made in Montgomery

At the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, the "children of the movement" spoke about their family's experiences during the civil rights movement. Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe's mother was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan while participating in the Voting Rights March in 1965, and she discussed how she has traveled the South talking to people that her mom spent the last days of her life with. Dr. Bob Zellner had family members who were involved in the Ku Klux Klan, but has spent his life committed to racial justice, and Peggy Wallace Kennedy, the daughter of Governor George Wallace, talked about powerful political families in the South and personal redemption. These three transformational stories were among the most heart wrenching told during our pilgrimage.

We also heard from Martin Luther King III, Martin Luther King Jr.'s eldest son at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Dr. King Jr. was the twentieth pastor of the church, leading the congregation from 1954 to 1960, and, during that time, he planned the 1956 bus boycott in his office in the lower unit of the church. We saw his office and where he lived during that time period.

In Montgomery, we laid wreaths at the Civil Rights Memorial at the Southern Poverty Law Center in memory of the 41 people who died during the civil rights movement and visited the Alabama Department of Archives' exhibit on race relations. There was one moment where I watched John Lewis standing beside a mural with a photo of his younger self and it made me think about how we are all living history. It must be surreal for him to visit this exhibit that marks his very real contributions to a movement.

Congressman Lewis joined me in Camden two years ago to discuss gun violence and activism. Two years later, as we hear from Parkland students who are raising their voices and refusing to back down on gun control, I am reminded of the struggles of the past, and reassured that, in the end, truth and justice prevail.

## Standing Together in Selma

The physical trip ended in Selma, where we walked the same path taken on Bloody Sunday, starting at Brown Chapel.

There, I spotted a familiar face in the crowd – Cara McClellan, Rutgers University-Camden Chancellor Phoebe Haddon's daughter. Cara is a Skadden Fellow at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and previously worked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. As a civil rights lawyer, she fights to ensure everyone has the right to vote, and we all owe people like Cara our thanks for working on the front lines every day.

My colleague Congresswoman Terri Sewell is the first black woman to serve in the Alabama Congressional delegation and the Brown Chapel AME Episcopal Church is her hometown church. It was clear she was passionate about voting rights and opportunity. Other speakers at Brown Chapel included Senators Doug Jones and Kamala Harris, as well as Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Together, we all marched to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where the world first met a young, studious John Lewis, carrying a backpack and facing unexpected bigotry and violence.

A bridge – which literally connects two places – connected two time periods, then and now. It connected people – from different backgrounds and different places – and it connected us to the plight faced by those who fought long and hard for their rights.

I was recently talking to one of my grandchildren about their school assignment on "To Kill a Mockingbird." This thoughtful advice from Atticus Finch applies to our pilgrimage: "You

never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." It was an honor to attend this trip and get to see things from the point of view of our country's brave civil rights leaders. I will never forget the experience.



At the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the brutal church bombing on September 15, 1963 that killed four innocent children, we heard from newly-elected Senator Doug Jones, who successfully prosecuted two of the four men responsible for the church bombings when he was the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama in the 1990s. I haven't seen Senator Jones since he came to Washington and it was touching to meet him on his home turf and hear about how he obtained justice more than 30 years after a horrific hate crime.



CONGRESSMAN NORCROSS & REV COLLINS  
OUTSIDE OF BROWN CHAPEL A.M.E.



DONALD & DONALD  
THE CONGRESSMAN FROM VA  
THE CONGRESSMAN FROM NJ



MRS. ABERNATHY & REV. COLLINS



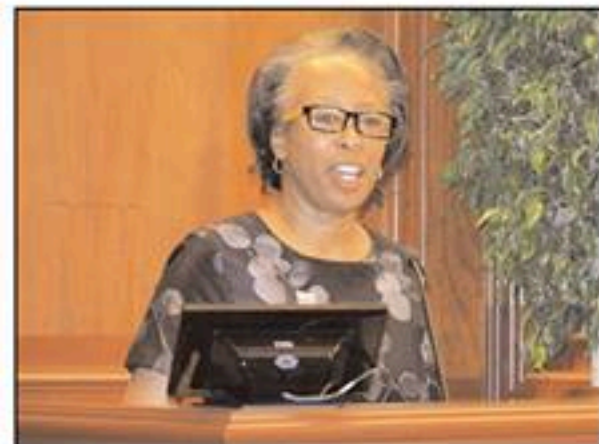
REV. JESSE JACKSON



# 2018 FAITH & POLITICS CONGRESSIONAL



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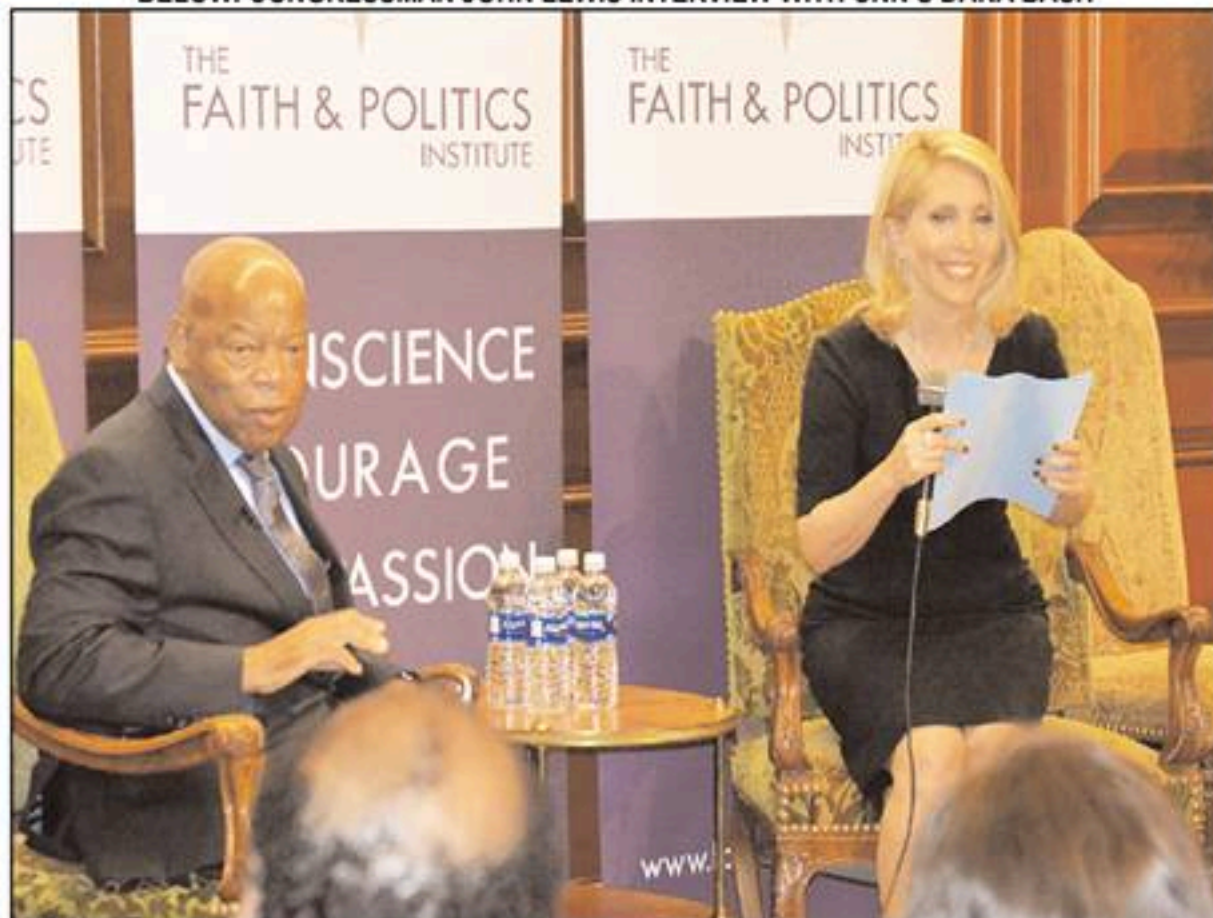
REP CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS (R-WA)



THE WOMEN FROM BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
MARIAN DANIEL, DAUGHTER, MARY LIUZZO & DR. CAROLYN MCKINSTY



THE PILGRIMAGE ENTERING ALABAMA DEPT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY  
BELOW: CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS INTERVIEW WITH CNN'S DANA BASH





MEMPHIS, TN AND BIRMINGHAM, MONTGOMERY & SELMA, AL



NORCROSS \* LEWIS \* COLLINS



**"BLOODY SUNDAY" ANNIVERSARY MAR. 4, 2018**







## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. JANUARY 15, 1929 - APRIL 4, 1968

### ABOUT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a non-violent movement in the late 1950's and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capitol. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly-relevant to the progress of humankind.

Some of Dr. King's most important achievements include:

In 1955, he was recruited to serve as spokesman for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a campaign by the African-American population of Montgomery, Alabama to force integration of the city's bus lines. After 381 days of nearly universal participation by citizens of the black community, many of whom had to walk miles to work each day as a result, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in transportation was unconstitutional.

In 1957, Dr. King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), an organization designed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. He would serve as head of the SCLC until his assassination in 1968, a period during which he would emerge as the most important social leader of the

modern American civil rights movement.

In 1963, he led a coalition of numerous civil rights groups in a nonviolent campaign aimed at Birmingham, Alabama, which at the time was described as the "most segregated city in America." The subsequent brutality of the city's police, illustrated most vividly by television images of young blacks being assaulted by dogs and water hoses, led to a national outrage resulting in a push for unprecedented civil rights legislation. It was during this campaign that Dr. King drafted the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," the manifesto of Dr. King's philosophy and tactics, which is today required-reading in universities worldwide.

Later in 1963, Dr. King was one of the driving forces behind the March for Jobs and Freedom, more commonly known as the "March on Washington," which drew over a quarter-million people to the national mall. It was at this march that Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which cemented his status as a social change leader and helped inspire the nation to act on civil rights. Dr. King was later named Time magazine's "Man of the Year."

In 1964, at 35 years old, Martin Luther King, Jr. became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. His acceptance speech in Oslo is thought by many to be among the most powerful remarks ever delivered at the event, climaxing at one point with the oft-quoted phrase "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant."

Also in 1964, partly due to the March on Washington, Congress passed the landmark Civil Rights Act, essentially eliminating legalized racial segregation in the United States. The legislation made it illegal to discriminate against blacks or other minorities in hiring, public accommodations, education or transportation, areas which at the time were still very segregated in many places.

The next year, 1965, Congress went on to pass the Voting Rights Act, which was an equally-important set of laws that eliminated the remaining barriers to voting for African-Americans, who in some locales had been almost completely disenfranchised. This legislation resulted directly from the Selma to Montgomery, AL March for Voting Rights lead by Dr. King.

Between 1965 and 1968, Dr. King shifted his focus toward economic justice - which he highlighted by leading several campaigns in Chicago, Illinois - and international peace - which he championed by speaking out strongly against the Vietnam War. His work in these years culminated in the "Poor Peoples Campaign," which was a broad effort to assemble a multiracial coalition of impoverished Americans who would advocate for economic change.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s less than thirteen years of non-violent leadership ended abruptly and tragically on April 4th, 1968, when he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King's body was returned to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, where his funeral ceremony was attended by high-level leaders of all races and political stripes.

Later in 1968, Dr. King's wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, officially founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, which she dedicated to being a "living memorial" aimed at continuing Dr. King's work on important social ills around the world.

### ABOUT CORETTA SCOTT KING

#### Human Rights Activist and Leader 1927- 2006

Coretta Scott King was one of the most influential women leaders in our world. Prepared by her family, education, and personality for a life committed to social justice and peace, she entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement. Her remarkable partnership with Dr. King resulted not only in four children, who became dedicated to carrying forward their parent's work, but also in a life devoted to the highest values of human dignity in service to social change. Mrs. King traveled throughout the world speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless,

full-employment, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and environmental justice. She lent her support to pro-democracy movements world-wide and consulted with many world leaders, including Corazon Aquino, Kenneth Kaunda, and Nelson Mandela.

Born and raised in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston she met Martin Luther King, Jr. who was then studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, with Coretta Scott King assuming the many responsibilities of pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King devoted most of her time to raising their four children: Yolanda Denise (1955), Martin Luther, III (1957), Dexter Scott (1961), and Bernice Albertine (1963). From the earliest days, however, she balanced mothering and Movement work, speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal and peace groups. She conceived and performed a series of favorably-reviewed Freedom Concerts which combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections and functioned as significant fundraisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the direct action organization of which Dr. King served as first president. In 1957, she and Dr. King journeyed to Ghana to mark that country's independence. In 1958, they spent a belated honeymoon in Mexico, where they observed first-hand the immense gulf between extreme wealth and extreme poverty. In 1959, Dr. and Mrs. King spent nearly a month in India on a pilgrimage to disciples and sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi. In 1964, she accompanied him to Oslo, Norway, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Even prior to her husband's public stand against the Vietnam War in 1967, Mrs. King functioned as liaison to peace and justice organizations, and as mediator to public officials on behalf of the unheard.

After her husband's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King founded and devoted great energy and commitment to building and developing programs for the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. Situated in the Freedom Hall complex encircling Dr. King's tomb, The King Center is today located inside of a 23-acre national historic park which includes his birth home, and which hosts over one million visitors a year.





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As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer, she dedicated herself to providing local, national and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods; she guided the creation and housing of the largest archives of documents from the Civil Rights Movement; and, perhaps her greatest legacy after establishing The King Center itself, Mrs. King spearheaded the massive educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday. In 1983, an act of Congress instituted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which she chaired for its duration. And in January 1986, Mrs. King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband—a holiday which has come to be celebrated by millions of people world-wide and, in some form, in over 100 countries.

Coretta Scott King tirelessly carried the message of nonviolence and the dream of the beloved community to almost every corner of our nation and globe. She led goodwill missions to many countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. She spoke at many of history's most massive peace and justice rallies. She served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the seventeen-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962. She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

A life-long advocate of interracial coalitions, in 1974 Mrs. King formed a broad coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity, as Co-Chair of both the National Committee for Full Employment and the Full Employment Action Council. In 1983, she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience, sponsors of the 20th Anniversary March on Washington, until then the largest demonstration ever held in our nation's capital. In 1987, she helped lead a national Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in Forsyth County, Georgia. In 1988, she re-convened the Coalition of Conscience for the 25th anniversary of the March on Washington. In preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks, in 1988 she served as head of the U.S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in Athens, Greece; and in 1990, as the USSR was redefining itself, Mrs. King was co-convenor of the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, DC.

In 1985 Mrs. King and three of her children, Yolanda, Martin III and Bernice were arrested at the South African embassy in Washington, DC, for protesting against apartheid.

One of the most influential African-American leaders of her time, Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities; authored three books and a nationally-syndicated newspaper column; and served on and helped found dozens of organizations, including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation, and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

During her lifetime, Mrs. King dialogued with heads of state, including prime ministers and presidents, as well as participating in protests alongside rank and file working people of all races. She met with many great spiritual leaders, including Pope John Paul, the Dalai Lama, Dorothy Day, and Bishop Desmond Tutu. She witnessed the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat at the signing of the Middle East Peace Accords. She stood with Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg when he became South Africa's first democratically-elected president. A woman of wisdom, compassion and vision, Coretta Scott King tried to make ours a better world and, in the process, made history.

Mrs. King died in 2006. A few days after her death, thousands of Atlantans stood in line in the pouring sleet to pay their respects to her at a viewing in Ebenezer Baptist Church. She is today interred alongside her husband in a memorial crypt in the reflecting pool of The King Center's Freedom Hall Complex, visited by hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world year-round. The inscription on the crypt memorializing her life of service is from I Corinthians 13:13 – "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

## The King Philosophy

Triple Evils  
Six Principles Of Nonviolence  
Six Steps of Nonviolent Social Change  
The Beloved Community

### TRIPLE EVILS

The Triple Evils of **POVERTY**, **RACISM** and **MILITARISM** are forms of violence that exist in a vicious cycle. They are interrelated, all-inclusive, and stand as barriers to our living in the Beloved Community. When we work to remedy one evil, we affect all evils. To work against the Triple Evils, you must develop a nonviolent frame of mind as described in the "Six Principles of Nonviolence" and use the Kingian model for social action outlined in the "Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change."

Some contemporary examples of the Triple Evils are listed next to each item:

**Poverty** – unemployment, homelessness, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, infant mortality, slums...

"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it. The time has come for an all-out world war against poverty ... The well off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for 'the least of these.'"

**Racism** – prejudice, apartheid, ethnic conflict, anti-Semitism, sexism, colonialism, homophobia, ageism, discrimination against disabled groups, stereotypes...

"Racism is a philosophy based on a contempt for life. It is the arrogant assertion that one race is the center of value and object of devotion, before which other races must kneel in submission. It is the absurd dogma that one race is responsible for all the progress of history and alone can assure the progress of the future. Racism is total estrangement. It separates not only bodies, but minds and spirits. Inevitably it descends to inflicting spiritual and physical homicide upon the out-group."

**Militarism** – war, imperialism, domestic violence, rape, terrorism, human trafficking, media violence, drugs, child abuse, violent crime...

"A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war- 'This way of settling differences is not just.' This way of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

Source: "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Boston: Beacon Press, 1967.

### SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE

Fundamental tenets of Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence described in his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*. The six principles include:

**PRINCIPLE ONE:** Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.

It is active nonviolent resistance to evil.

It is aggressive spiritually, mentally and emotionally.

**PRINCIPLE TWO:** Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.

The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation.

The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.

**PRINCIPLE THREE:** Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice not people.

Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.

The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil not people.

**PRINCIPLE FOUR:** Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform. Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation. Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.

**PRINCIPLE FIVE:** Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate. Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as the body. Nonviolent love is spontaneous, unmotivated, unselfish and creative.

**PRINCIPLE SIX:** Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice. The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win. Nonviolence believes that God is a God of justice.

### SIX STEPS OF NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

The Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change are based on Dr. King's nonviolent campaigns and teachings that emphasize love in action. Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence, as reviewed in the Six Principles of Nonviolence, guide these steps for social and interpersonal change.

### INFORMATION GATHERING:

To understand and articulate an issue, problem or injustice facing a person, community, or institution you must do research. You must investigate and gather all vital information from all sides of the argument or issue so as to increase your understanding of the problem. You must become an expert on your opponent's position.

### EDUCATION:

It is essential to inform others, including your opposition, about your issue. This minimizes misunderstandings and gains you support and sympathy.

### PERSONAL COMMITMENT:

Daily check and affirm your faith in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. Eliminate hidden motives and prepare yourself to accept suffering, if necessary, in your work for justice.

### DISCUSSION/NEGOTIATION:

Using grace, humor and intelligence, confront the other party with a list of injustices and a plan for addressing and resolving these injustices. Look for what is positive in every action and statement the opposition makes. Do not seek to humiliate the opponent but to call forth the good in the opponent.

### DIRECT ACTION:

These are actions taken when the opponent is unwilling to enter into, or remain in, discussion/negotiation. These actions impose a "creative tension" into the conflict, supplying moral pressure on your opponent to work with you in resolving the injustice.

### RECONCILIATION:

Nonviolence seeks friendship and understanding with the opponent. Nonviolence does not seek to defeat the opponent. Nonviolence is directed against evil systems, forces, oppressive policies, unjust acts, but not against persons. Through reasoned compromise, both sides resolve the injustice with a plan of action. Each act of reconciliation is one step close to the 'Beloved Community.'

Based on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in *Why We Can't Wait*, Penguin Books, 1963.

We often view the Six Steps as a phases or cycles of a campaign rather than steps because each of them embodies a cluster or series of activities related to each of the other five elements.

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## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

"The Beloved Community" is a term that was first coined in the early days of the 20th Century by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. However, it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who popularized the term and invested it with a deeper meaning which has captured the imagination of people of goodwill all over the world.

For Dr. King, The Beloved Community was not a lofty utopian goal to be confused with the rapturous image of the Peaceable Kingdom, in which lions and lambs coexist in idyllic harmony. Rather, The Beloved Community was for him a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence.

Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision, in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict.

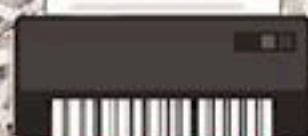


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